



Forest Heights Police Department Policy and Procedures Manual

Subject:	Body Armor			
General Order No.	2016-1	Effective Date:	January 1, 2016	
Chapter: 15	Section: 2	Number of Pages:	2	Replaces: GO 2000-71
Original Issue: 01/01/16		Dates Revised:		

A. Purpose

To establish policy regarding Forest Heights Police Department (FHPD) officers use of body armor.

B. Policy

1. Except where specified otherwise in this section, the wearing of body armor is mandatory when officers are:
 - a. Performing uniformed patrol duties;
 - b. Serving a warrant or participating in a drug raid or high risk situation;
 - c. Deployed to the inner perimeter of a barricade or hostage situation; and
 - d. Attending classes as a recruit officer, provided a vest has been issued and the instructor has not determined the type of instruction to be incompatible with vest use.
2. All officers, regardless of assignment, will have body armor available while on-duty.
3. Officers will wear body armor certified by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at Standard 0101.03 Type II or Type I II-A.

C. Issued Body Armor and Related Equipment

1. Officers will be issued:
 - a. one NIJ Standard 0101.03 Type II ballistic-resistant vest;
 - b. two standard carriers; and
 - c. one winter outer garment.
2. Officers will wear the carrier provided by the body armor manufacturer.
3. Officers will wear the ballistic resistant vest (body armor) underneath the uniform shirt, except:
 - a. When the carrier is designed as an outer garment;
 - b. When an emergency does not allow insertion beneath the shirt; or
 - c. When an investigator in civilian attire chooses to temporarily wear the vest over his shirt while serving an arrest or search warrant, conducting surveillance, or participating in a street narcotics operation. The armor must be concealed by a sport coat or jacket.
4. The outer garment carrier may be worn with the uniform whenever a long-sleeved shirt is worn. The outer garment carrier need not be covered by a jacket or coat.

D. Replacement of Body Armor

1. The FHPD will replace issued armor damaged in line-of-duty gunfire or other direct performance of duty.
2. Officers are responsible for the replacement of unserviceable issued armor due to changes in body size (except if due to weight loss), abuse, or accidental damage.
3. Body Armor returned to the FHPD upon an officer's termination or retirement will not be permanently reissued to another officer. However, the FHPD may temporarily reissue returned vests in emergencies only, provided the receiving officer would otherwise be without a serviceable vest and arrangements are pending for that officer to receive new permanent issued body armor.

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4. Body armor that has been struck with bullets, cut, or have any visible damage will not be issued to a FHPD officer for any purpose except as evidence, research, or training.